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Committee on Information
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Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session

Draft report

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution 34/182, the Assembly requested the Committee:

> "(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;
>
> "(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;
>
> "(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly;"

and requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2 In its resolution 35/201, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Committee, approved its report and the recommendations of its Ad Hoc Working Group, reaffirmed the mandate given to the Committee in its resolution 34/182 and decided to increase the membership of the Committee from 66 to 67. At its organizational session in 1980, the Committee agreed that the principle of geographical rotation would be applied to all the officers of the Committee and that they should be elected for two-year terms of office.

3. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to fifty-ninth sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions. At its sixtieth session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions 60/109 A and B.

4. Over the years, the membership of the Committee has grown. At its sixty-first session, the General Assembly decided, on the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to increase the membership of the Committee from 108 to 110 and appointed the Dominican Republic and Thailand as members of the Committee.

5. The Committee is composed of the following Member States:

Algeria	Belarus
Angola	Belgium
Argentina	Belize
Armenia	Benin
Austria	Brazil
Azerbaijan	Bulgaria
Bangladesh	Burkina Faso

Burundi
Cape Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mexico
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Qatar
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zimbabwe

II. Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

6. The organizational meeting of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Information was held on 30 April 2007 at United Nations Headquarters. The session was opened by the outgoing Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Mihnea Ioan Motoc (Romania).

B. Election of officers

7. In accordance with the principle of geographical rotation, the Committee held elections for a new Bureau for a two-year term. Upon his nomination by the representative of the Western European and Others Group, Rudolf Christen (Switzerland) was elected Chairman by acclamation. Upon their nomination by the representatives of the African Group of States, the Latin American and Caribbean Group of States and the Eastern European Group of States, respectively, Estevão Umba Alberto (Angola), Marcelo Suárez Salvia (Argentina) and Marc Emillian Morar (Romania) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation. Upon his nomination by the representative of the Group of Asian States, Hossein Maleki (Islamic Republic of Iran) was elected Rapporteur, also by acclamation. The officers of the Committee on Information for the period from 2007 to 2008 are thus as follows:

Chairman:
Rudolf Christen (Switzerland)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Estevão Umba Alberto (Angola)
Marcelo Suárez Salvia (Argentina)
Marc Emillian Morar (Romania)

Rapporteur:
Hossein Maleki (Islamic Republic of Iran)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

8. At its organizational meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2007/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Statement by the Chairman.
5. Admission of new members.
6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
7. General debate.

8. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.

9. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.

10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

9. The Committee held its general debate from 30 April to 2 May 2007. On 30 April, in the afternoon, the Department, led by its Under-Secretary-General, held an interactive dialogue with Member States.

10. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the network of United Nations information centres: activities and strategic directions (A/AC.198/2007/2 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations website: progress towards parity among official languages, accessibility and content management (A/AC.198/2007/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information (A/AC.198/2007/4 and Corr.1).

D. Observers

11. The following Member State took part in the session as an observer: Comoros. The Holy See also participated in the session as an observer.

12. Representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also participated in the session as observers.